

CES Sandhurst SOCIAL JUSTICE



CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING PRINCIPLE #4 Subsidiarity



Photo courtesy of the Diocese of Sandhurst

Subsidiarity is concerned with the idea that all people have the right to freely participate in decisions that affect their lives, ie decisions should be made by those closest to and most affected by the issues and concerns of the community. Communities should only be interfered with in order to support them in cases of need, and to help coordinate their activities with the rest of society with a view to upholding the common good. (Catechism of the Catholic Church n.1883)

Subsidiarity is ultimately about building stronger communities in which government is a necessary—but not the only—form of social organization. Catholics believe that a well-ordered society is one in which institutions large and small, sacred and secular, and public and private come together.

Pope Francis has said, “let us keep in mind the principle of subsidiarity, which grants freedom to develop the capabilities present at every level of society, while also demanding a greater sense of responsibility for the common good from those who wield greater power.” (Laudato Si’, #196)

WHAT

is the lowest possible level at which decisions need to be made?

WHO

wins, who loses?